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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Notice of Allowability mailed 16 April 2004. The amendments to claim 9 correct typographical errors. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow its scope.

In addition, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's time and courtesy during the 14 April 2004 teleconference with Applicant's representative James E. Ruland. With respect to the Examiner's Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's Amendment as depicted in the Notice of Allowability mailed 16 April 2004 does not narrow the scope of claim 9.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended the title to reflect, e.g., the title as appears in the ADS file 09 September 2002.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

James F Kyland, Reg. No. 37,432

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Attorney Docket No.:

MERCK-2084

Date:

July 8, 2004

HANNER & VERTACOGRADIPP RAFR to 9-2-03 Option

MERCK-2084